

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

David JARUS, Jeff CICERCHI, Guoqiang  
QIAN, and Tie LAN

§371 Serial No.: Unknown  
§371 Date: Herewith  
PCT Serial No.: PCT/US2004/032650  
Filed: October 1, 2004 (1.10.04)

Examiner: Unknown

For: NANOCCLAY-CONTAINING  
COMPOSITES AND METHODS OF  
MAKING THEM

**Preliminary Amendment at National Stage Entry**

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: US DO/EO  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**Introductory Comments**

Applicants (including the latter added during the International Stage as identified in the attached document) remove multiple dependencies from their claims, of record and reduce independent claims, before calculation of filing fees for US National Stage entry. Applicants' claims are patentable over the references cited in the Written Opinion.

Respectfully submitted by:

March 31, 2006  
Date

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